

Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 282410

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY PATSY T. MINK

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SENV, JA

SUBJECT: PROSPECTIVE ISHIHARA MEETING WITH MRS. MINK:
PALAU SUPERPORT DEVELOPMENTS

REF: STATE 281682

1. FOLLOWING BACKGROUND FOR YOUR USE IF ENVIRONMENT
DIRECTOR GENERAL ISHIHARA RAISES PALAU SUPERPORT PROPOSAL:

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A. IN LATE AUGUST PALAU LEGISLATURE SENT DELEGATION TO
JAPAN TO ENCOURAGE NISSHO-IWAI AND INDUSTRIAL BANK OF
JAPAN TO BEGIN WORK ON PALAU PORTIONS OF SUPERPORT FEASI-
BILITY STUDY. THE LEGISLATURE HAS APPARENTLY USED ITS
OWN FUNDS TO MEET ITS EARLIER REQUIREMENT THAT "ENVIRON-
MENTAL" GUIDELINES BE DRAWN UP BEFORE FEASIBILITY STUDY IS
BEGUN. FEASIBILITY STUDY WILL IN ANY EVENT HAVE TO BE

UNDERTAKEN BEFORE APRIL 1978, WHEN CONTRACT BETWEEN JAPANESE GROUP UNDERTAKING STUDY AND TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT EXPIRES.

B. IN JUNE SEVERAL MAJOR U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, TOGETHER WITH TWO PALAUAN ORGANIZATIONS AND CONSUMER UNION OF JAPAN, NOMINATED CERTAIN COASTAL WATERS OF PALAU AS A MARINE SANCTUARY PURSUANT TO 1972 MARINE PROTECTION,

RESEARCH AND SANCTUARIES ACT (PL 92-532). DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND INTERIOR AND THE U.S. HIGH COMMISSIONER TO MICRONESIA HAVE TAKEN POSITION THAT NO ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN UNDER PL 92-532 WHILE NEGOTIATIONS ON FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF MICRONESIA ARE UNDERWAY. DEPARTMENT ALSO SAID THAT ANY DECISION ON FUTURE USE OF PALAUAN COASTAL WATERS SHOULD BE MADE BY PALAUANS. MORE RECENTLY, PALAU LEGISLATURE PASSED STRONGLY WORDED RESOLUTION OPPOSING SANCTUARY PROPOSAL.

2. IF ISHIHARA ASKS ABOUT U.S. POLICY TOWARD SUPERPORT PROPOSAL, YOU MAY WISH TO REPLY THAT NO FORMAL PROPOSAL HAS YET BEEN MADE TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, BUT THAT AT SUCH TIME AS ONE IS MADE, THE U.S. WILL EXAMINE IT IN LIGHT OF APPLICABLE LAWS AND REGULATIONS. WE WOULD WANT THE PEOPLE OF PALAU TO HAVE FULL INFORMATION ON THE SUPERPORT PROPOSAL, INCLUDING ITS POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS.
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3. IF ISHIHARA RAISES THE MARINE SANCTUARY PROPOSAL, YOU COULD NOTE THAT DEPARTMENT HAS RECOMMENDED AGAINST ACTION UNDER PL 92-532 WHILE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDERWAY. MOREOVER, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES ANY DECISION AFFECTING FUTURE OF PALAUAN COASTAL WATERS SHOULD BE MADE BY PALAUANS. VANCE

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